

1.3 Characteristics of a Civilization



Characteristics of a Civilization

- Between 4500 and 1000 BCE civilizations began to develop independently in many parts of the world
- The emergence of civilization in all cases was the result of subsequent revolutions:
 - Neolithic Revolution
 - Urban Revolution

Characteristics of a Civilization

- The **Urban Revolution** was characterized by the development of large, densely populated settlements that were socially and economically diverse.
- Neolithic times there was little to differentiate members of society

Characteristics of a Civilization

- Neolithic time everybody and there was common ownership of the land



- Urban revolution saw great differentiation of the people

Differentiation of People During Urban Revolution



Rulers

Differentiation of People During Urban Revolution

Traders



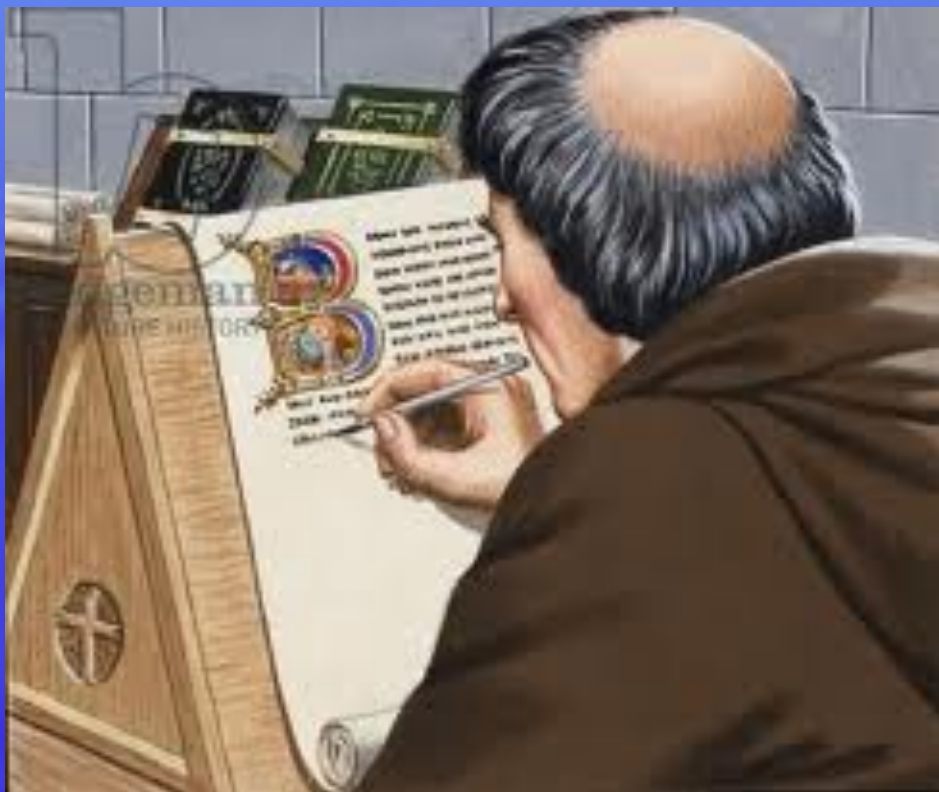
Differentiation of People During Urban Revolution

Metal smith



V33528 From the Orient Once Came the Finest
Blades—a Sword Maker of Damascus, Syria

Differentiation of People During Urban Revolution



Scribe

Differentiation of People During Urban Revolution

Farmer



Differentiation of People During Urban Revolution



Fisherman

Characteristics of a Civilization

- There are several characteristics commonly accepted as indications that a society is “civilized”

Characteristics of a Civilization

Group Activity

1. Centralized Government

- One of the cornerstones of any civilization is one that passes laws and regulates society
- Early times people took care of themselves

1. Centralized Government

- Over several thousand years, power became concentrated in a small, powerful group of people that was recognized as having the right to insist that others obey the laws and regulations it created

1. Centralized Government

- Initially this rested with a group of elders
- Decisions were made on a consensual basis
- In times of crisis, they went under the authority of one ruler

1. Centralized Government

- Different leadership emerged over time
 - Monarchy- rule by divine right
 - Kingship- rule appointed or inherited
 - Democracies- leaders chosen by vote

1. Centralized Government

- In a civilization warfare was to be for invaders
- Internal conflicts were to be taken care of by government

2. Agriculture Intensification

- One of the most important areas of concern for the government
- Supervised the

**Irrigation
of the land**

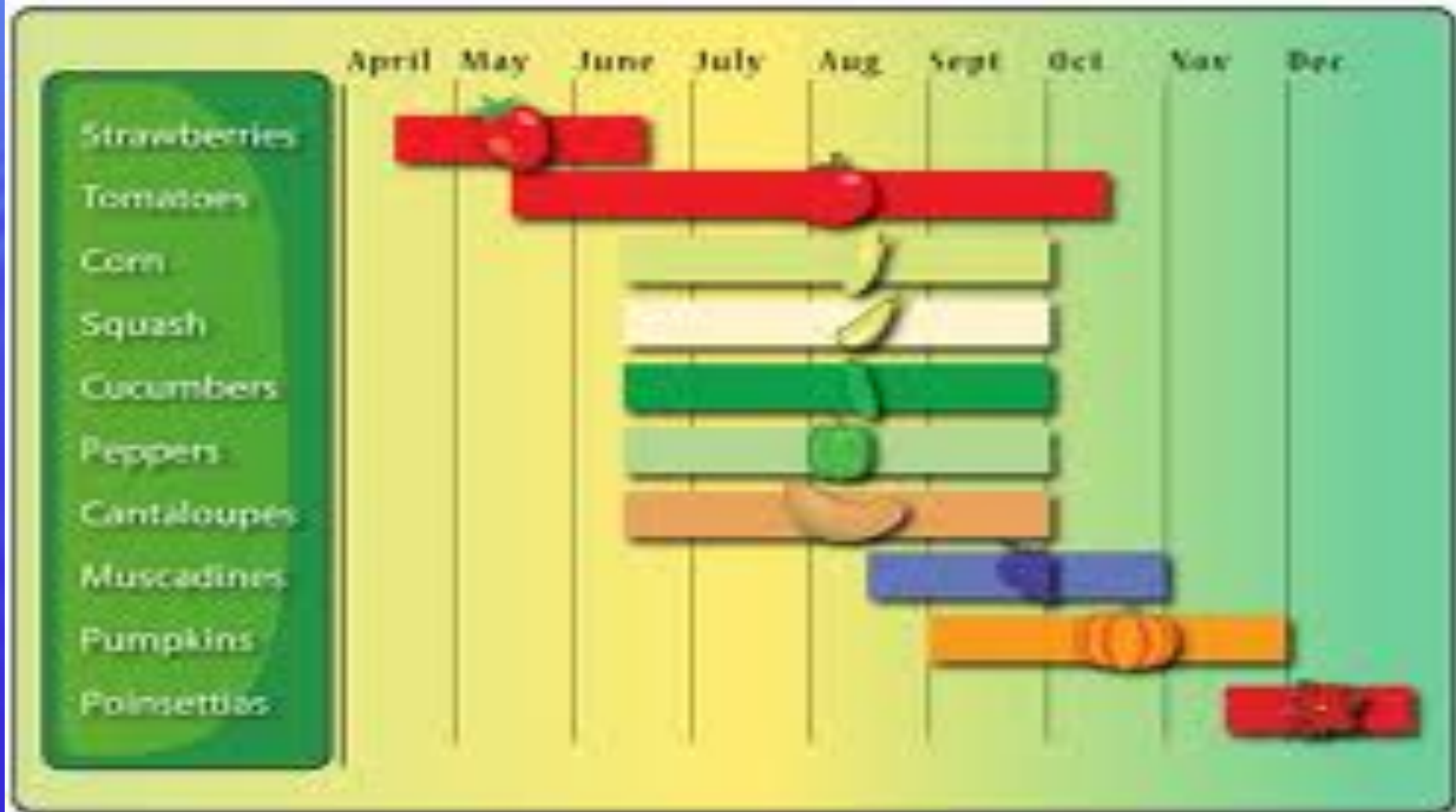


2. Agriculture Intensification



Dikes

2. Agriculture Intensification



2. Agricultural Intensification

- Through these efforts there was a dramatic increase in agricultural productivity
- Lead to year-round food supply

3. Specialization in Occupations

- With the increase in food production, they were able to have a surplus of food
- There was then an increased need for more specialists such as:

3. Specialization in Occupations



Tax
Collectors

3. Specialization in Occupations

Record Keepers

Maintain
inventories of
Food and other
goods



3. Specialization in Occupations



Judges

4. Class Structure

- As trades emerged among the people, equality between the societies was lost.
- Individuals no longer had equal access to



4. Class Structure

- Private ownership of land was developed
- Along with this came the desire to own more land, hire workers to work the land, and the enslavement of some to carry out much of the manual labor.

4. Class Structure

- Once private ownership became a way of the new culture, so did unequal distribution of



4. Class Structure

- This lead to the formation of classes
- no real middle class

5. Merchants and Trade

- Early trade consisted of trade between bands and consisted of raw materials
- A new trade emerged, shifting to manufactured goods (ivory carvings, precious stones)

5. Merchants and Trade

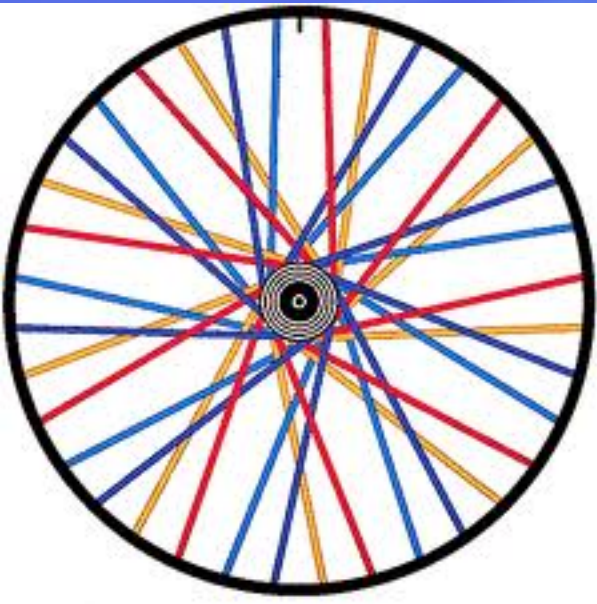
- This lead to the emergence of the Merchant group
- They did not produce anything, but they assisted in the exchange of goods
- With the rise of merchants, shops and markets arose

5. Merchants and Trade

- Bartering became more complex, and this led to the development of currency.

6. Development of Science and Writing

- Important advancements were made such as the development of the:



» Bricks, Mortar, Simple Machines and simple tools

6. Development of Science and Writing

- Earliest examples of writing are concerned with accounting for ownership of goods
 - How much grain was left in the government storehouses
 - Who owned the cattle on a given area of land
 - How many cattle would be traded for how many chickens or sheep?

6. Development of Science and Writing

- Writing was also important now for the recording of laws and religious texts

7. State Religion

- Strong link between religion and the authority of the government